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Identical letters dated 27 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that the Saudi authorities have again violated Iraq's territorial integrity and attacked units of the Iraqi Border Guard Force.

At 2400 hours on the night of 24/25 August 2001, a group of some 10 Saudi patrol personnel armed with light weapons infiltrated into Iraqi territory in the area of Iraq's Sulaykhan and Zahir outposts. Soldiers of the Iraqi Border Guard Force engaged the attacking group and there was an exchange of fire before the armed Saudi group withdrew into Saudi territory, where five military vehicles were waiting to take its members further into the interior. When the armed Saudi group had withdrawn, soldiers of the Iraqi Border Guard Force found a member of the armed Saudi group called Sa'd Mutlaq Silbi, who had been hit by one of the rounds fired. A unit of the Iraqi Border Guard Force took him to a hospital in the city of Samawah, but he died on the way. The Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has contacted the delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Baghdad for arrangements to be made to return the body to Saudi Arabia.

This fresh Saudi violation of Iraq's territorial integrity only confirms the hostile intentions of the Saudi regime. A Saudi military patrol consisting of three vehicles fired on an Iraqi border observation post on 25 March 2001; and on 24 May 2001 another Saudi military patrol penetrated into Iraqi territory and fired on units of the Iraqi Border Guard Force, hitting and killing the Iraqi soldier Taqi Abd al-Amir. These Saudi incursions across the boundary into Iraqi territory are an adjunct to the hostile role the Saudi regime assumes against Iraq by virtue of its active participation in the ongoing United States and British aggression against it.

In the letters we addressed to you concerning the above Saudi attacks, we stressed Iraq's resolve to preserve the integrity of the Iraq-Saudi Arabia border area and its commitment to the principle of good neighbourliness in its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, however, insists on participating in the hostile United States and British scheme that seeks to create a climate of instability in the region in order to facilitate the implementation of the United States policy of imposing its hegemony there. In our view, the Saudi authorities bear full legal responsibility for the repeated acts of aggression being committed by Saudi forces against Iraqi territory.

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I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed A. **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative